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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/042,373	12/27/2001	Hideji Tajima	10287.48	5376

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EXAMINER

DO, PENSEE T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1641

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/042,373

Applicant(s)

TAJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Pensee T. Do

Art Unit

1641

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment Entry & Claim Status

The preliminary amendment filed on February 28, 2002 has been acknowledged and entered.

Claims 22-26 are pending.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains more than one paragraph. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 22, "and so on" is unclear as to what else beside "the target substance of an assay" the micro-substance contains. See also claim 24 for the same problem.

Claim 22, line 4, "capable of" is indefinite because it is unclear of what is being modified for the carriers to be capable of holding micro-substances and the remoting-acting bodies.

Claim 24, the phrase "such as" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MEP 2173.05 (d). See also claim 25 for the same problem.

A broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation (in the same claim) is considered indefinite, since the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. Note the explanation given by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in *Ex parte Wu*, 10 USPQ2d 2031, 2033 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1989), as to where broad language is followed by "such as" and then narrow language. The Board stated that this can render a claim indefinite by raising a question or doubt as to whether the feature introduced by such language is (a) merely exemplary of the remainder of the claim, and therefore not required, or (b) a required feature of the claims. Note also, for example, the decisions of *Ex parte Steigewald*, 131 USPQ 74 (Bd. App. 1961); *Ex parte Hall*, 83 USPQ 38 (Bd. App. 1948); and *Ex parte Hasche*, 86 USPQ 481 (Bd. App. 1949). In the present instance, claims 24 and 25 recites the broad recitation microorganisms/micro-substances, and the claim also recites bacteria or viruses/ antibiotics or anticancer substances which is the narrower statement of the range/limitation.

Claim 24 is also confusing because it is unclear whether the limitations of claim 24 are just the specific details of claim 22 or sequential steps of claim 22. It seems that claim 24 defines claim 22 in specific details. However, claim 24 also recites that the

method of claim 22...further comprising steps of:... The same problem applies to claims 25 and 26.

Claim 26 is indefinite because it recites that micro-substances being hard to be filtered. What are the metes and bound of being hard to be filtered? How is the hardness being determined, i.e. by size or what?

Claim 26 is also confusing in reciting "controlling so as to use the remote-acting bodies and carriers as auxillary chemicals for filtration by applying or removing the magnetic field to the liquid" What does removing or applying the magnetic field have to do with using the remote-acting bodies and carriers as auxillary chemicals for filtration? The remote-acting bodies and carriers are auxillary chemicals? How would one use the remote-acting bodies and carriers as auxillary chemicals?

Claim 26, line 5, is incomplete by reciting "suspended by the".

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 22, 23, 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Forrest et al. (US 4,659,678).

Forrest et al. teach a method of immunoassay of an antigen in a liquid sample comprising mixing the antigen (micro-substance), magnetic cellulose particles (remote-acting bodies and carriers) bound to antibodies to the antigen known as the antibody reagent; the mixture is incubated for a certain amount of time; a magnetic field (remote force) is applied to separate the bound from unbound. The antibody reagent comprises of anti-FITC polyclonal antibody covalently coupled with magnetizable cellulose particles which are composites of cellulose containing black ferric(ous) oxide (Fe_3O_4). Magnetic field can be used to manipulate or separate the antigen-bound antibody-magnetizable cellulose particles from the unbound antibody-magnetizable particles. (See col. 3, lines 30-56; col. 8, lines 15-40). The magnetic particles of Forrest are equivalent to the carrier and the remote-acting bodies of the claimed invention. Since the claimed invention fails to exclude that the carriers and the remote-acting bodies are separate entities, the magnetic cellulose particles which are composite of cellulose containing black ferric(ous) oxide (Fe_3O_4) read on the claimed carrier and remote-acting bodies.

Remarks

Claims 24, 25 are free of prior arts.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pensee T. Do whose telephone number is 703-308-4398. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00-3:00.

Application/Control Number: 10/042,373
Art Unit: 1641

Page 5

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on 703-305-3399. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.

Pensee T. Do
Patent Examiner
December 9, 2003



CHRISTOPHER L. CHIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1800/641